

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 25, 2005

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met January 25, 2005, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Richard Hartman, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Robert Rye. Also present was a representative from the *Grand Island Independent*.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accept and place on file the minutes of the January 11 meeting
2. 9 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's Semi Annual Report
3. 24 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's miscellaneous receipts
4. 25 Accept and place on file communications as received
5. 5b Accept and place on file the Public Works quarterly report
6. Item 15a will be tabled until the paperwork is completed

Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIATION – Chairman Lancaster called for public participation and Supervisors Eriksen introduced Scott Welk, the Southern Public Power District Customer Service Manager. Mr. Welk stated that CEO Gary Hedman would have liked to have been here, but is attending another press conference. He stated that SPPD has signed a letter of intent with Wolverine Ethanol LLC of Troy Michigan for the construction of a \$60 million dry mill plant. It will employ 35 to 40 employees and will be located in the industrial park at CAAP. SPPD is also working with DTE Rail to provide service. The TIF financing will also play a major roll in the location of the plant and the proposed legislation in LB 461 would provide skip annexation that would allow first class cities to annex noncontiguous property.

Hartman questioned if LB 461 is not approved what would happen. Mr. Welk stated SPPD could look at second class cities to approve the annexation because by law they can do so.

Jeffries noted that Grand Island lost the last plant to Central City and he questioned the size of the operation. Mr. Welk stated that it would be the same size as the Central City project.

Lancaster stated that this is a benefit to Hall County.

Lancaster called for public participation.

Dan Wagoner, a Hall County Corrections officer requested to speak. He stated he wanted to update the board on the blood drive. He thanked the board for the use of the board room. He stated that they had 41 people participate and some were turned away. There were 7 first time people and they corrected 34 units. The County Assessor's Office had 100% participation. He would like to see the county do it again and stated that if it is promoted the possibilities are endless.

Mr. Wagoner also stated that he is excited about the ethanol plant.

Lancaster called for public participation and no one else responded.

5 a PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT BIDS ON MOWER TRACTOR – Jeffries stated that the committee did not meet to discuss this so they want to table this until the committee can meet.

6 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT TO THE VISITOR PROMOTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – The board received a memo from The Convention and Visitors Bureau stating that the advisory committee accepted the resignation of Edwin Baasch at their January 17th meeting . Mr. Baasch resides in Arizona for half of the year and is unable to attend the meetings. They are recommending Rick Milton to fulfill Mr. Baasch's term.

Eriksen made a motion and Rye seconded to appoint Rick Milton to serve on the advisory committee to replace Mr. Baasch.

Jeffries questioned if Mr. Baasch is a hotel owner what company he owns? Lancaster stated she did not know, but would get that information.

Arnold stated that David Vaughn's application for the CVB board is still on file and he would like to see Mr. Vaughn appointed. He does not agree with the committee recommendation. Jeffries stated he would like to have more information.

Eriksen withdrew his motion to appoint Mr. Milton.

Chairman Lancaster called for another motion or questioned if the board wanted to table this for the next meeting.

Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to table this issue for two weeks. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried. Arnold encouraged the board members to talk to people regarding this appointment.

8 DISUCSS LEGISLATION REGARDING INHERITANCE TAX – Lancaster stated that LB 399 would eliminate inheritance taxes has been introduced to the legislature. She read a letter addressed to the Revenue Committee Members expressing the County Board's concern and requested the committee to kill this bill. She is asking the rest of the board if they want to support this letter.

Eriksen made a motion and Arnold seconded to approve this letter and forward it to the revenue committee.

Gregg Baxter requested to address the board on the issue. He expressed concern on the county's position on this bill and stated the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association is opposed to the death tax. He also stated that the association is opposed to the skip annexation.

Lancaster expressed concern on the financial struggles of the counties. The inheritance tax is another important source of revenue. Counties receive property taxes but are limited on any other source of revenue.

Arnold stated that he also has concerns on the estate tax. People work hard and pay taxes and then have to pay again at the time of death, but with this source of revenue the county does not have to raise property taxes or cut expenditures when there are special projects. It is important to consider the impact this would have if it was eliminated and what can be done to offset the loss of the inheritance tax revenue.

Lancaster tabled this issue in order to hold the public hearing.

4 :30 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING EXCLUSION OF LAND FROM INDUSTRIAL PARK – Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to open the public hearing for the exclusion of land from the industrial park. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Chairman Lancaster called for public participation.

Tom O'Neill requested to speak to the county board. He owns property in the industrial park and stated he had tried to contact Mr. Priesendorf regarding this issue. There were rules that were followed when the tract was established and questioned if there wasn't supposed to be a vote of the members when some one requests to be removed from the tract. He understood that the reason Mr. Priesendorf was requesting to have the property removed was to sell and subdivide the lots.

Jeffries noted the memo from Jerry Janulewicz noting the process that is to be followed to exclude the property.

Eriksen questioned how many properties are left in the tract. It appears that there are five properties left.

Regional Planning Director Chad Nabity was present and stated that Mr. Priesendorf wants to sell the west portion of the property and to subdivide so it would have to be in the city limits to do this.

Discussion was held on the streets and County Surveyor Dan Hostler stated that the streets belong to the city and are city right-of-way.

Tom O'Neill expressed concern on the life of the industrial tract and requested that any action would be postponed until further discussion with the members of the tract.

Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to close the public hearing. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to postpone any action until the next meeting for further discussion. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

CONTINUE DISCUSSION REGARDING INHERITANCE TAX – Gregg Baxter came forward for further discussion.

Jeffries stated that he does not like the inheritance tax but the funds from inheritance taxes have been used for the South Locust project, Wood River Diversion and other capital improvements, by using inheritance tax funds, taxes were not increased. This is another source of revenue for the county.

Hartman noted that there have been occasions where family members have had to sell the family farms in order to pay the inheritance taxes.

Eriksen stated that he has the same position as Mr. Jeffries but as a board member the county needs the revenue from inheritance taxes. This source of revenue needs to be replaced.

Arnold stated that there are limitations on property tax these dollars cannot be set aside for a rainy day or other emergencies that come up. The inheritance dollars allow us to build a reserve. He is not opposed to eliminating the estate tax but there has to be a way to replace the revenue.

The vote on the motion to send the letter opposing LB 399 was taken. Arnold, Eriksen Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and Hartman voted no. Motion carried.

7 DISCUSS AND APPROVE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS –The board members received the new committee assignments in their packets. Lancaster stated that one change will be made to add Scott Arnold to the computer committee.

Arnold made a motion and Eriksen seconded to approve the committee assignments.

Hartman requested that Chairman Lancaster explain why he was taken off of the Mid-Plains board and Mid-Nebraska Individual Services board. He also questioned why he was not on the public works committee when 90% of the roads are in his area.

Lancaster stated that she had received concerns from the public regarding Mid-Plains and Mid Nebraska Individual Services. The financing for these agencies should be a concern of the chair of the specific board. She stated that she did not want to discuss the public works committee in an open meeting.

Eriksen called for the question. The vote on the motion to approve the committee assignments was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and Hartman voted no. Motion carried.

16. COMMENCE AUDIT OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND REGULAR CLAIMS AND ACTION ON CLAIM AUDIT – The board members reviewed the claims. Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to approve the bi weekly pay claims and the

regular claims. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS – Hartman – no report

Humiston – no report

Eriksen – He stated that the Corp of Engineers called a meeting that Ms. Lancaster and he attended regarding CAAP. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Quality reviewed the status of the land at CAAP and the disposal of the property. It was a good meeting and the new Colonel of the Corp of Engineers was present to review the information. They are on schedule as far as cleaning up the land and are trying to determine what to do with Tract #19, #20 and #21.

Rye – No report

Jeffries – He attended the monthly Stuhr Museum meeting and stated that the City of Grand Island has let the contract for the hike and bike trail. This trail will run on the west side of Stuhr Museum and on the north side of the Hall County Park. It should be completed by late summer.

Arnold – He attended the jail committee meeting and they are looking at the jail bond issue.

Lancaster – She attended the jail committee meeting, the meeting regarding CAAP and the computer committee meeting. The computer committee is looking at the maintenance of the wireless system.

She also mentioned that the county has time every Monday on Community Connection and she encouraged the elected and appointed officials to participate. She also mentioned that the Grand Generation Center participated and provided information that the kitchen at the center was built to serve 100 meals now serves 500. They are also selling bricks for donations to the construction of the new center.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairman Lancaster called for old or unfinished business and no one responded.

Meeting adjourned the next meeting will be February 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk